

Lessons of The Prodigal (Part 5)

Sunday, January 25, 2026

Luke 15:11-31

11 Jesus continued: “There was a man who had two sons. 12 The younger one said to his father, ‘Father, give me my share of the estate.’ So he divided his property between them.

13 “Not long after that, the younger son got together all he had, set off for a distant country and there squandered his wealth in wild living. 14 After he had spent everything, there was a severe famine in that whole country, and he began to be in need. 15 So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed pigs. 16 He longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, but no one gave him anything.

17 “When he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have food to spare, and here I am starving to death! 18 I will set out and go back to my father and say to him: Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. 19 I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me like one of your hired servants.’ 20 So he got up and went to his father.

“But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.

21 “The son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’

22 “But the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23 Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. 24 For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate.

25 “Meanwhile, the older son was in the field. When he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. 26 So he called one of the servants and asked him what was going on. 27 ‘Your brother has come,’ he replied, ‘and your father has killed the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’

28 “The older brother became angry and refused to go in. So his father went out and pleaded with him. 29 But he answered his father, ‘Look! All these years I’ve been slaving for you and never disobeyed your orders. Yet you never gave me even a young goat so I could celebrate with my friends. 30 But when this son of yours who has squandered your property with prostitutes comes home, you kill the fattened calf for him!’

31 “‘My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours. 32 But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’”

Review

Lesson # 1 - EVERYTHING WE NEED IS IN THE FATHER'S HOUSE.

Lesson # 2 - STOP SLEEPING WITH PIGS - (Freedom from Sin)

Lesson # 3 - THE FATHER'S LOVE

Lesson # 4 - TWO PRODIGALS

Lesson # 5 - ALWAYS AND EVERYTHING

Imagine two sides of a coin. Each side is different, but they are both a part of the same coin

That's how it is with our last lesson from The Parable of The Prodigal Son

It is a truth too powerful to ignore and one we need to carry with us each day of our lives and it is one that I keep hearing in my head ever since we began studying this parable

31 **“My son,’ the father said, ‘you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.**

With that one statement The Father speaks so much...

1. He reaffirms the older brother's identity and their relationship
2. He reminds the older brother of the nature of his Father
3. He re-establishes the promises that are *inherent* in that nature

*existing in something as a permanent, essential, or characteristic attribute
belonging to the basic nature of something or someone*

On the one side of the coin we have "You are always with me" on the other side of the coin we have "everything I have is yours."

Each of these promises also have two sides. One side is full of strength and encouragement and is much more delightful to consider. The other side of each promise, while just as true and full of power, is a little more challenging and somber

"You are always with me"

If you know what it means to be a parent, then you understand what the Father is telling the Older Brother. Because as parents we, from the moment of conception, we carry our children with us... In our thoughts, in our hearts, in our prayers, in our considerations, in our plans... No matter how old you are or how far away you may move from us, you are always with us.

And if that is true of human parents; how much more true is it of our heavenly father.

Jeremiah 23:24

24 Who can hide in secret places so that I cannot see them?" declares the Lord. "Do not I fill heaven and earth?" declares the Lord.

We are told that in the Garden of Eden, God would walk with His children and that after they sinned, Adam and Eve hid from God because they were naked and ashamed. The scripture says God called out to them "Where are You" Not because God didn't know where they were, but I believe that God wanted them to know where He was. He was there... He wanted them to know that they were his children and that they are always with Him.

Now it stands to reason, if we are always with Him then it is just as true to say He is always with us.

And so, from the beginning, like the song we sang this morning, He is Emmanuel - God with us. This is how he continued to reveal Himself throughout history - The God Who Is Always With us.

Psalm 139:1-12

1 You have searched me, Lord, and you know me. 2 You know when I sit and when I rise; you perceive my thoughts from afar. 3 You discern my going out and my lying down; you are familiar with all my ways. 4 Before a word is on my tongue you, Lord, know it completely. 5 You hem me in behind and before, and you lay your hand upon me. 6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, too lofty for me to attain.

7 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? 8 If I go up to the heavens, you are there; if I make my bed in the depths, you are there. 9 If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, 10 even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast. 11 If I say, "Surely the darkness will hide me and the light become night around me," 12 even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you.

Isaiah 41:10

10 So do not fear, for I am with you;

Joshua 1:9

9 ..Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Isaiah 43:1-2

43 But now, this is what the Lord says— he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: “Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. 2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you...

Matthew 28:20

20 ..And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

What strength, what encouragement, what love, what assurance to know that He is ALWAYS THERE. No matter where we are at, or what we may be facing, or what we have done... HE IS THERE.

It's incredible to me that we see this heart in the father's response to the news that The Older Brother was angry and refused to come in "his father went out and pleaded with him."

Illustration: Taylor going to Kindergarten

"Swing really high and you will see the church from there. And you can know that I will be standing outside looking in your direction." I told him the same thing when he left Tucson for Oregon. "I will be looking in your direction every day"

Now let's flip that coin over and see the rest of this truth. If God is always with us then that means, He is always with us" (He is always there)

What I mean is that as encouraging as that knowledge is, it is also sobering in that it reminds me that whatever I am doing, God is there with me watching me

He sees everything we do nothing is hidden from him

Proverbs 15:3

3 The eyes of the Lord are everywhere, keeping watch on the wicked and the good.

Hebrews 4:13

13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare (naked and exposed) before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Jeremiah 16:17

17 My eyes are on all their ways; they are not hidden from me, nor is their sin concealed from my eyes.

"Make sure that you do not take my son back there" - Genesis 24 (Abraham speaking to his servant regarding getting a wife for his son Isaac)

Exodus 20:26 (directions about building an altar and not using steps so as not to expose our nakedness) We should be careful how we approach God and what we do in His presence. BUT REMEMBER we are always in His presence

"Everything I Have Is Yours"

The second side of the main coin reminds us that everything that God has is ours...

Psalm 84:11

11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does he withhold from those whose walk is blameless.

Now this promise wouldn't mean much if the father didn't have anything. For instance if I told my kids, "Everything I have is yours" though I would mean it sincerely, They wouldn't have a whole lot. But our Father in heaven has EVERYTHING and EVERYTHING He has is ours.

The Psalmist declares...

Psalm 24:1

1 The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it;

Haggai 2:8

8 'The silver is mine and the gold is mine,' declares the Lord Almighty. (And psalm 50:10 says the cattle on a thousand hills)

Matthew 6:25-33

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life?

28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you—you of little

faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Some of you have been worried about things you don't need to worry about; because all that The Father has is your and He has everything.

This coin too has a flip side and that is this...

If everything The Father has is ours... Then we need to understand that everything we have is His

Sometimes we like to joke, especially in marriage relationships...

"What's his is mine and what's mine is mine" but it doesn't work that way. God wants to trust you with what is His but do you trust Him with what is yours? Remember it's all His anyway. That's why when He asks us to honor Him with the Tithe we should willingly obey. If he asks us to give above and beyond our tithe we should obey... If he asks us to give of what we have to His Kingdom we can trust Him with it.

Psalm 37:25-26

25 I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread. 26 They are always generous and lend freely; their children will be a blessing. (or *others will see that their children are blessed*)

I challenge you to carry these coins with you every day and to regularly take them out turn them over and carefully consider the enormity of their implications in your life.